The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1914, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 8. NO. 6. WASHINGTON D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1918. WHOLE NO. 370

MR SHIP PROFITEERS LOOT U.S. TREASURY

New York, May 4.—With the ousting of the air craft board by President Wilson sensational disclosures are being made in the manner in which the government has been looted out of nearly a billion by the wasteful methods of the private interests in charge of the aviation program.

The writer says the United States government is aware of this necessity but it is important that every citizen understand what developments are in store for us to the end that we may cooperate in a fullest measure with the government in its efforts.

Prof. Moulton quotes Hon. R. H. Brand, vice chairman of the British war mission to this country, who said:

"The ravenous demands of a modern war compel every nation at war to choose between two evils and we, if they have elected for war, they must order their economic lives accordingly. They must limit the luxury industry from a peace to a war basis, and they must see that every war demand has a prior claim to every peace demand."

Prof. Moulton is not impressed with the claim that Germany "is nearly done." Instead the evidence is clear that "the evidence of the past year points to the opposite conclusion."

He shows that whatever success Germany has thus far secured is because of its unlimited organization coupled with a merciless military machine, while England and France were developing on the first year of the war on "muddling through."

"As soon as it became apparent that the war was going to be long continued," he writes, "Germany set about the elimination of all unnecessary industries; factories which had been producing luxuries were converted into munitions of war; labor was drafted into public; and where this was not possible they were closed down and the laborers transferred for war service in essential industries.

"Germany thus early got right down to brass tacks.

"All useless efforts, all waste motion, all unessential trades were eliminated—everything was arranged with an eye single to military victory."

COMPENSATION PLAN BEST.

Washington, May 4.—A comparative study of the various employers' liability and workmen's compensation systems, and their relative effect in expediting prompt and certain relief to injured workmen to seek employment, has been published by the United States bureau of labor statistics, in bulletin 217. The report emphasizes the superiority of compensation over employers' liability laws in meeting the economic loss occasioned by injuries or accidental death or injury of the principal breadwinner. It was found, however, that many workmen's compensation laws are far from adequate.

The important differences between the workmen's compensation and employers' liability systems may be briefly stated as follows: The first compensation states the families of victims of industrial fatalities every week the equivalent of two-thirds of what they might expect, received it with reasonable promptness, and without delay or public scandal, to keep them from extreme hardship. In the liability state of Pennsylvania the families of decedents had no such assurance; in general the payments received were rarely adequate to the needs of the families, and not far from one-fourth of them received nothing while a little more than a year from the fatality been obliged to seek charitable aid.

MACHINE HELPS SHORTAGE.

Tacoma, Wash., May 4.—Chief Grain Inspector Sweeney says there have been very few complaints of a farm-labor shortage as many farmers are using tractors for plowing and seeding, enabling them to dispense with the surplus of farm labor which it is customary to use in seeding time.

Portland, Ore., May 4.—The farm labor situation just at the present time is well in hand, according to W. Brewer of the United States department of agriculture, who is assisting farmers to secure suitable labor.

"On the strength of a very determined movement in the Willamette valley to organize 'home guards' in the various counties," he said, "a uniform wage of $60 a month has been established. Some counties have already raised and are compelled to live in San Francisco or Oakland because of the lack in housing facilities near their work are handicapped by the fact that they have to spend four hours a day traveling to and from their work. This traveling month after month amounts to much lost time, as well as tiring the workers to such an extent that their efficiency with their daily work under this condition of affairs is remedied the better.

PHOTO ENGRAVERS GAIN.

Seattle, May 4.—The Photo Engravers' union has given a fine example of trade union effort in their new two-year agreement. The scale of minimum will be $34.50 a week, and next year it will be $36. A week's work of 44 hours at $5 a week over day rates. The work week is 48 hours for day work and 42 hours for night work.

Toronto, Ontario, May 4.—Newspaper and job printing and engraving commercial shops have signed a two-year agreement with the Photo Engravers' union. The work week will be 46 1-2 hours for a $33 minimum.

"FINDS" $7,866,443.

Chicago, May 4.—The mysteries of corporation bookkeeping are shown in the annual report of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad, which discloses that the directors have "discovered" a profit of $7,866,443 which was charged to operating expenses instead of to capital account. The money was found in the treasury with which 2 years ago and has just been "found."

PROVIDE PUBLIC SHELTER.

Boston, May 4.—The Massachusetts house of representatives has passed a bill authorizing cities and towns to provide for the temporary care of homeless persons in the event of riots, fires, floods or other disasters.

WAR BASIS NECESSARY FOR LASTING VICTORY

Chicago, May 4.—Every ounce of national power that is misdirected is an advantage to the enemy, in the fight against Germany, writes Professor Harold Glenn Moulton of the University of Chicago, in a warning of the necessity for placing America on a war basis.

The writer says the United States government is aware of this necessity but it is important that every citizen understand what developments are in store for us to the end that we may cooperate in a fullest measure with the government in its efforts.

Prof. Moulton quotes Hon. R. H. Brand, vice chairman of the British war mission to this country, who said:

"The ravenous demands of a modern war compel every nation at war to choose between two evils and we, if they have elected for war, they must order their economic lives accordingly. They must limit the luxury industry from a peace to a war basis, and they must see that every war demand has a prior claim to every peace demand."

Prof. Moulton is not impressed with the claim that Germany "is nearly done." Instead the evidence is clear that "the evidence of the past year points to the opposite conclusion."

He shows that whatever success Germany has thus far secured is because of its unlimited organization coupled with a merciless military machine, while England and France were developing on the first year of the war on "muddling through."

"As soon as it became apparent that the war was going to be long continued," he writes, "Germany set about the elimination of all unnecessary industries; factories which had been producing luxuries were converted into munitions of war; labor was drafted into public; and where this was not possible they were closed down and the laborers transferred for war service in essential industries.

"Germany thus early got right down to brass tacks.

"All useless efforts, all waste motion, all unessential trades were eliminated—everything was arranged with an eye single to military victory."

COMPENSATION PLAN BEST.

Washington, May 4.—A comparative study of the various employers' liability and workmen's compensation systems, and their relative effect in expediting prompt and certain relief to injured workmen to seek employment, has been published by the United States bureau of labor statistics, in bulletin 217. The report emphasizes the superiority of compensation over employers' liability laws in meeting the economic loss occasioned by injuries or accidental death or injury of the principal breadwinner. It was found, however, that many workmen's compensation laws are far from adequate.

The important differences between the workmen's compensation and employers' liability systems may be briefly stated as follows: The first compensation states the families of victims of industrial fatalities every week the equivalent of two-thirds of what they might expect, received it with reasonable promptness, and without delay or public scandal, to keep them from extreme hardship. In the liability state of Pennsylvania the families of decedents had no such assurance; in general the payments received were rarely adequate to the needs of the families, and not far from one-fourth of them received nothing while a little more than a year from the fatality been obliged to seek charitable aid.

MACHINE HELPS SHORTAGE.

Tacoma, Wash., May 4.—Chief Grain Inspector Sweeney says there have been very few complaints of a farm-labor shortage as many farmers are using tractors for plowing and seeding, enabling them to dispense with the surplus of farm labor which it is customary to use in seeding time.

Portland, Ore., May 4.—The farm labor situation just at the present time is well in hand, according to W. Brewer of the United States department of agriculture, who is assisting farmers to secure suitable labor.

"On the strength of a very determined movement in the Willamette valley to organize 'home guards' in the various counties," he said, "a uniform wage of $60 a month has been established. Some counties have already raised and are compelled to live in San Francisco or Oakland because of the lack in housing facilities near their work are handicapped by the fact that they have to spend four hours a day traveling to and from their work. This traveling month after month amounts to much lost time, as well as tiring the workers to such an extent that their efficiency with their daily work under this condition of affairs is remedied the better.

PHOTO ENGRAVERS GAIN.

Seattle, May 4.—The Photo Engravers' union has given a fine example of trade union effort in their new two-year agreement. The scale of minimum will be $34.50 a week, and next year it will be $36. A week's work of 44 hours at $5 a week over day rates. The work week is 48 hours for day work and 42 hours for night work.

Toronto, Ontario, May 4.—Newspaper and job printing and engraving commercial shops have signed a two-year agreement with the Photo Engravers' union. The work week will be 46 1-2 hours for a $33 minimum.

"FINDS" $7,866,443.

Chicago, May 4.—The mysteries of corporation bookkeeping are shown in the annual report of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad, which discloses that the directors have "discovered" a profit of $7,866,443 which was charged to operating expenses instead of to capital account. The money was found in the treasury with which 2 years ago and has just been "found."

PROVIDE PUBLIC SHELTER.

Boston, May 4.—The Massachusetts house of representatives has passed a bill authorizing cities and towns to provide for the temporary care of homeless persons in the event of riots, fires, floods or other disasters.

UNITED IN SPIRIT AND PURPOSE

BY PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

Will the battle line of freedom hold against the onslaughts of autocracy's military machine? This is the question uppermost in the minds of liberty loving men the world over. The answer is: It will, if it must! Upon that line hangs the destiny of the world for decades to come. The line can hold back the offensive and defeat the invaders out of the republic of France only if it is the concentrated expression of united determination unfailingly supplying men, munitions, food, and every accoutrement required.

Workers of America; the safety of that battle line in France depends mainly now upon us. We must furnish the majority of those in the trenches. We must build the ships that carry the troops and munitions of war. Regardless of hidden dangers we must maintain the line of ships on the high seas which connect the fighting front with our national resources. We must make the guns, the munitions, the aeroplanes. We must have ready food, clothing, blankets, now dearer in the great industrial army that serves overseas with the fighting forces.

We must do all these things because a principle is involved that has to do with all the world.

We are fighting against a government that disregards the will of the governed—a government that puts into operation the rule of might and extends its supervision into almost details and fetters upon them. We are fighting against involuntary labor—against the enslavement of men and the militarism that the lives and bodies of little children. We are fighting against barbarous acts in war and the murder of non-combatant populations, killing the wounded, the aged, the women and children.

We are fighting for the ideal which is America—equal opportunity for all. We are fighting for political and economic freedom—national and international.

We are fighting for the right to join together freely in trade unions and the freedom and the advantages represented by such right.

Our country is now facing a crisis to meet which continuity of war production is essential. Workers, decide every industrial question fully regard to those our fellow Americans—who are on the battle line. Let no one be enemied to the ideals and institutions of America not only unimpaired, but strengthened and purified in spirit and in expression—thus performing the responsible duty of those entrusted with the high resolve to be free and perpetuate freedom.

U. S. HAS WIDE POWER UNDER SABOTAGE ACT

Washington, May 4—The department of justice has analyzed the recently-enacted sabotage act and announces that "the fact that the act of injury or destruction, therefore, was not committed to benefit the United States will not have the effect of impeding the prosecution of the war will furnish no excuse in a prosecution under this act."

The department states that "it is sufficient if the jury find that the person to believe that his act might injure, interfere with or obstruct the United States or one of its allies in preparing for or carrying on the war."

This decision means that where a person commits any act that would be a base hindrance to the war, the act—"sabotage" such person will be prosecuted because every one has reason to believe that such act will retard the war.

As the entire resources of the nation, and the entire energies of the government, the department gives notice that this act has sweeping application. It says:

"In short, practically speaking, the whole industrial and agricultural resources of the United States, all of its transportation and shipping facilities, all of the public utilities and all parts thereof and all products of industry and agriculture and all parts thereof suitable for war use fall within the protection of this act.

"For the first time the United States, through its department of justice, is by this act furnished with adequate legislation against all wilful acts of destruction or injury which directly or indirectly weaken or retard the preparations for the war, or the actual conduct of the war."

A violator of this act can be imprisoned for 30 years and fined $10,000.

DON'T LIKE TRADE UNIONS.

Columbus, Ga., May 4.—Mill managers in this section don't like trade unions and freely express their opinion of organized labor. The following notice has been posted in the cheapjohn labor Eagle and Phenix mills:

"We have received a confidential appeal to our employees to establish the claim we make, that we are their friends and intend to render to them service. We want, in return, the friendship and confidence of our employes.

"Labor unions are not promotive of friendly relations between employer and employes, but are the occasion of estrangement. We, therefore, have been and will establish labor unions among our operatives.

"We hereby announce, and wish the operatives to understand, that we do not desire labor unions to be organized or exist among our employes, and we hereby request that such of our employes as are members of a labor union, or its purposes to continue so, apply at once to their respective overseers, and get their time, and apply to the office for settlement.

"We further give notice hereby that after two weeks from this date no one will be employed, or contiqued in the employment of this mill who shall be a member of such labor union."

SENATOR SHERMAN TALKS.

Washington, May 4.—The ship of state wobbled for a spell last week in the United States Senator Sherman resumed.

The senator again viewed with alarm. The president is not the only now persons non grata. Recently it was President Gompers.

"I can't understand," said the Illinois lawmaker, "why the president has surrounded himself with labor leaders."

Several pages of the Congressional Record were filled and important war legislation was sidetracked because of senatorial curiosity.

The last reports indicate that the ship of state has struck an even keel and is now in the shipbuilding district. A personal visit by agents of the bureau to 668 families shows that 1917 expenditures by these families averaged $1,258.66.

The necessity for high wage scales in New York shipbuilding plants is shown in these increases over the year 1916. In 1917, $4.97 per hour; in 1918, $4.91 per cent; in 1917, $4.65 per cent.

DRIVERS ADVANCE.

Rock Island, Ill., May 4.—A strike of teamsters employed by the Rock Island and vicinity has been adjusted. Wages are increased and working conditions improved.

Cincinnati, May 4.—Furniture Drivers' union No. 104 has secured a wage increase of $2 a week, with a promise of an additional increase next October.

WIN TWO-YEARS' STRIKE.

Hannibal, Mo., May 4.—Plumbers' union No. 321 has shown the value of organization by winning a two-years' strike against plumbing contractors. The agreement calls for the union shop and wage increases of nearly 40 per cent.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Nashville, Tenn., May 4.—Typographical union No. 174 has secured a wage increase of $5 a week, with a promise of an additional increase next October.

CARPENTERS MAKE GAINS.

Indianapolis, May 4.—General Secretary Frank Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters announces that recent wage increases by affiliated locals:

Wood River, Jacksonville and Kankakee, Ill; Springfield, Mass., and Terre Haute, Ind.; from 55 to 60 cents an hour; Ashland, Bayonne, Iowa; Escanaba, Mich., Vincennes, Ind.; Winona, Minn.; Hoquiam, Wash., 50 to 55 cents; Castle, Pa.; 56½ to 70 cents. Niagara Falls, N. Y.; 55 to 65 cents; Allmen, 47-1-2 to 55 cents. Reynoldsville, Pa.; O'Fallon, Ill.; Fall River, Mass., 50 to 55 cents; Hampsport, Pa.; Greenfield, Mass.; 45 to 55 cents. Bucyrus, Ohio; 40 and 45 to 50 cents. Mechanicsburg, Ohio; Rawlins, Wyo.; 45 to 50 cents. Pekin and Belleville, Ill.; Aberdeen, Wash., 50 to 55 cents. Butte, Mont.; 60 to 65 cents. Rochester, Minn., 45 to 50 cents; Ashland, Ky.; Oneida, N. Y.; 45 to 60 cents; latter secures Saturday half holiday. Port Huron, Mich.; 45 to 50 cents. Paterson, N. J.; 56½ to 65 cents. Watertown, N. Y.; 55 to 62½ cents. Fort Wayne, Ind.; 50 to 55 cents. Timmins, N. Y.; $7.00 minimum. St. Catherine, Ontario; 50 to 55 cents. Chester, Ill.; Findlay, Ohio; 40 to 50 cents. Mechanicville, N. Y.; 47½ to 55 cents. Geneva, Ill.; 47½ to 65 cents. Sesser, Ill.; 50 to 70 cents. New Philadelphia, Ohio; 50 to 65 cents. Pittsburg, Pa., 57-9 to 60 cents for millmen. Pecksville, N. Y.; 50 to 55 cents. Ft. Worth, Texas; Wallace, Idaho; Tulsa, Okla.; 75 to 87½ cents. El Centro, Cal.; $6 a day, eight hours. Bay City, Mich.; 50 to 56 until July 1, 1919; Saturday half holiday during July, August and September; union shop. Bozeman, Mont.; $5 to $6 a day. Brownwood, Texas; $5 a day. Watsonville, Cal.; $4.50 to $5 a day. Greensboro, N. C., and Danville, Va., reduced the work day from 10 to 9 hours. Evanston, S. C., secured the eight-hour day.

OPPOSE MOB LAW.

New York, May 4.—In opposing mob law in all its forms the convention of the American Newspapers Publishers' association, ex-United States Supreme Court Justice Charles E. Hughes, said:

"Our judicial processes have not yet broken down and we have every confidence in their adequacy to punish treason and sedition.

"The effective prosecution of the war involves of necessity certain restrictions in our accustomed freedom.

"Congress has given authority to provide for the punishment of seditious utterances and of disloyal conduct.

"These views are in line with statements made last November by President Wilson and by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor. He said:

"Men who take the law into his hands is not the right man to cooperate in any form or our development of law and institutions."

GUN MEN WANTED A STRIKE.

Duluth, Minn., May 4.—The Labor World joins in the general fear against Judge Mackin, chairman of the state public safety commission, who journeyed to Washington recently and had a brief conference with his commission, among other things, stopped a strike of ore workers last week.

The Labor World says: "As a matter of fact there was no real danger of an iron ore strike in this state last year than there was of a wind machine ale Kingston. It is true there was considerable strike talk in the newspapers, but it did not come from the state. Special agents of the department of justice ran the thing down and they traced the origin of the strike talk to the spot and paid agents of mining companies who kept the ball rolling for the purpose of justifying the companies in retaining their services."

BOOKBINDERS ACTIVE.

Indianapolis, May 4.—Officers of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders report the membership increase for March, 1918, over the same month in 1917 was 4,139.

Bookbinders' union No. 234 of Jackson, Miss., is negotiating wage scales with employing bookbinders.

The Syracuse, N. Y., local of bookbinders is conducting a membership campaign, which includes bindery women.

The sixteenth biennial convention of the brotherhood convenes in Kansas City, July 8 next.

NO STRIKES; WILL ARBITRATE

Indianapolis, May 4.—The Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International union has signed a five-year agreement with the Tile and Mantel Contractors' association. Arbitration will supplant strikes during this period. For two years wages will be $5.75 for an eight-hour day.

The layers will not work on "peddled" contract. This means that the union will stand with the employers in insisting that contracts shall not be awarded to one of the original bidders, thereby ending a competition that destroys conditions.

R. R. HAS RECORD YEAR.

Chicago, May 4.—Operating revenues of the Illinois Central railroad for 1917 amounted to $114,844,555, a record for the road. Net income was $19,481,225, a decrease of $1,000,000 from 1916. Dividends of 7 per cent, or $14,000,000, were paid.

LABOR IS NOT SCARCE.

Washington, May 4.—The weekly employment survey of the United States bureau of labor statistics shows that while the building trades situation has shown some improvement, great numbers of building carpenters and other workers in the building trades still unemployed make the situation serious. The survey for April shows that 23 cities have a surplus in building trades, while normal conditions prevail in 5 and a shortage in 4. During the previous week, 18 cities had a surplus, 10 reported an exact balance of supply and demand, and 5 cities had a shortage.

A slightly better equalization of supply and demand in the divisions of machinery and machinists is shown. Twenty-eight cities report a shortage of mechanics, 9 a surplus, and 22 report an exact balance. A total of workers in skilled trades is indicated in 36 cities, while 4 have a surplus and 23 a shortage of laborers.

Little change appears in the condition of labor against the previous week. Forty-five cities, however, want more women, chiefly for domestic work, and 11 report normal conditions.

EDITOR DEFENDS KEY MEN.

San Francisco, May 4.—Editor Bierce of the Wasp editorially defends the Commercial Telegraphers' union in its present contest with the Western Union Telegraph company.

"Probably there is today, no class of skilled workers worse paid than the commercial telegrapher, and the fact that two large corporations—the Western Union and the Postal Telegraph company—have an absolute monopoly of employment from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

"Ignoring the temporary 'bonuses,' wages are no higher than they were 20 years ago, though government stabilization has an enormous increase in living expenses.

"Now, the operators, relying on public sympathy, are in the midst of coercion of the government to accord freedom of contract between employer and employe, freedom to bargain with the right of comb nation, purpose to pursue their organization, which has been recognized by law, and to defy the secret rules of the Western Union forbidding the exercise of this right. They announce that they will not attempt a strike, but are prepared to face a lockout."

PACKERS ON EIGHT HOURS.

Chicago, May 4.—Eight hours will constitute the basic work day in packing houses, it was decided Wednesday Sunday, May 5, as a result of a recent decision by Federal Judge Samuel Alschuler. Save in cases Where operations are continued during the 24 hours three shifts of eight hours each will be the rule. Double time will be paid for Sundays and holidays including New Year's, Memorial day, Fourth of July, Labor day, Thanksgiving and Christmas, or the days legally celebrated in lieu thereof. Judge Alschuler's ruling in the history was on a 11, 12 and 13-hour basis. The change has been acceptable by the workers uniting in trade unions and threatening to strike if the employers would not accept arbitration.

FAKE "UNION" EXPOSED.

New York, May 4.—In its endeavor to increase the profits of the Interborough Traction company ordered the officers of its company-controlled "union" to appear before the city authorities and ask that fares be increased so that wages may be raised.

The Journalist says it was told: "If you think organized labor is in favor of a decent fare, why not get organized labor to help with the board of estimates for this fare increase?" President Shea of the Interborough smashed the Street Car Men's union recently. Now Mr. Hedley has formed a "union" of his own and has written a pamphlet on the necessity for unity between employer and employed.

MINERS RAISE WAGES.

Washington, May 4.—Alabama coal miners have raised their day wage from $5 to $6 cents, as a result of a conference in this city with representatives of the fuel administration and their employers. Five cents a ton advance was secured for pick miners and 10 cents a ton for loading machine-mined coal. These gains are the result of a successful organizing campaign conducted in Alabama which was supposed to be an anti-union bulwark.

SAUER KRAUT IN BAD.

New York, May 4.—Dislike of German things has struck saner kraut an awful wallop and dealers in that shredded dish are disconsolate. They have asked the federal food board to award them the name of the dish they were christened Liberty cabbage.

FIRST UNION LOGGING CAMP.

Eureka, Cal., May 4.—Timber Workers' union No. 12 has signed the first union logging camp agreement with the Pacific Lumber company, a subsidiary of the Standard Oil company. The agreement calls for the union shop and wage increases of nearly 40 per cent.

ALLEGED "PATRIOTS" BLOW UP UNION HOME

Birmingham, Ala., May 4.—The home of M. V. Hale was dynamited after he had refused to cease his labors as an A. F. of L. organizer. Hale's home is near this city and his wife and child, who were asleep in the house, narrowly escaped being killed.

In affidavit, Hale says:

"I was approached by agents of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad company and offered a big monetary consideration if I would discontinue my activities, which I refused. They then suggested that other methods would be employed to force me to cease organizing.

"On Saturday evening, April 20, we had arranged a meeting at Hillman, Ala., for miners, and arrived at the hall that had been engaged for the meeting, we were refused admittance by union men, generally known as gun men in the employ of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad company and compelled to leave. The same gun men took possession of the meeting and C. Lowney, of Birmingtom, whereever we went that evening.

"On Sunday morning about following we encountered the same experience at a meeting arranged at Mason city hall by the same gun men and state."

Attached to the affidavit is a reproduction of the notice sent to the owner of one of the halls:

"We, the Reciprocal Committee, understands that you have allowed the I. W. W. or German agitators to hold meetings in your hall on the 30th of Apr. inst. We the Committee feel that you did not have the proper facts on all you do. We notify you now, for it you allow those meetings to continue you may loose your hall somb how or some thing may happen. We can't tell. Yours truly, Reciprocal Committee & State."

GIRLS WORK AT MINE.

Coaldale, Pa., May 4.—In protesting against the employment of girls in the Coaldale mine, Attorney Benjamin F. Davis, auditor for District No. 7, United Mine Workers said:

"It from a viewpoint of productivity we are unwilling at the meeting the demands, when only last month Nesquehoning colliery paid $1,000 in bonuses to increase production of coal of any colliery in the valley, while the others were idle.

"Are we to believe that the scarcity of labor is such a serious period that before the first draft of men for military service is exhausted through industrial sickness. In the Fairmont region of West Virginia alone 1,000 miners' families are now in actual danger of starvation. From a humanitarian and patriotic standpoint would it not be infinitely greater value to the nation to see that the man power so depleted by the draft was rather than sow seeds of industrial discord by employment of girls in such places as the coal breaker."

FOOD COSTS JUMP.

Washington May 4. — The United States bureau of labor statistics issues these interesting figures in the increased cost of food:

From February 15 and February 15, 1918, the increase was 1 per cent.

From February 15, 1917, to February 15, 1918, food cost as a whole advanced 21 per cent.

From February, 1913, to February, 1918, food cost advanced 53 per cent. During this five-year period corn meal advanced 74; lard, 112; potatoes, 108, and flour 100 per cent. Milk, roung steak, bread, ham, hens, pork chops, butter and sugar show increases ranging from 51 per cent, for milk to 95 per cent for eggs. The increase during 1917 was 20 per cent in sirloin steak, rib roast and butter, each of these increasing 40 per cent.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

Charleston, S. C., May 4.—Garment Workers' union No. 197 has secured substantial wage increases which affect nearly 1,000 men, women and children. Time and one-half for overtime and double time for holidays.

Boston, May 4.—As the result of conferences with employers, which resulted in overall workers, a shop with the United Garment Workers, have raised wages 10 per cent. These increases are effective at once that made this gain possible and have raised their union dues.

ORDERS 30,000 CARS.

Washington, May 4.—Director General of Railroads McAdoo has placed an order for 30,000 steel box and coal cars. The estimated cost of the order will be filled in time for the fall and winter business of the railroads. The equipment involved is about eighty and ninety million dollars. Negotiations for the construction of 30,000 additional freight cars are pending.

METAL WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Kansas City Mo., May 4.—Officers of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance report that 46 local unions have been chartered within the past 60 days. Of this number, 23 are railroad shop men.

BUTCHERS RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, May 4.—Wage increases and a shorter agreement for its members employed in meat

STRIKES DISAPPEAR; RECORD FOR COUNTRY

Philadelphia, May 4.—Secretary of Labor Wilson has arrayed facts and figures to refute charges of publicity seekers who insist that the nation is seething with strikes.

In an address before the American academy of political and social science, the cabinet official said that, he has fewer labor strikes at the present time than at any time previous within my recollection, notwithstanding the fact that it is the period of the year when strikes are usually most numerous.

"There is not a military strike in the coal industry, the packing house industry, in the oil industry, the lumbering industry, the shipbuilding industry, in the general production, transportation, telegraph or telephone systems of the country, and only a few strikes of minor importance in the textile industry, metal trades, munitions factories and all other producing enterprises.

"To summarize, the highest efficiency can only be obtained by the proper treatment of the workmen, the proper planning and management of the work to be done, the intelligent mobilizing of the workmen, efficient means of training the untrained workmen for the kind of work they are to do, complete provisions for sanitation and protection, comfortable homes, a working day sufficiently short to enable the workers to return to his work on each succeeding day fairly refreshed for the task he has to perform. And more important than all of those is the spirit of cooperation of the man who believes he is being dealt with fairly.

Secretary Wilson said the worst handicap to production was the heavy turnover in industry caused by men becoming easily dissatisfied with jobs and moving from place to place. Poor housing accommodations, he said, are at the bottom of much of this dissatisfaction.

DISCUSS WAR COSTS.

Washington, May 4.—The committee of the American Economic association, appointed to investigate the purchasing power of money, has begun a study of the question of how the burden of war costs is distributed, and declared in its articles of his sympathy with the spirit of the age in its expressions of his fatherland, and declared in its articles that his presence in the United States and his writings during its military power," and other statements that would bring his loyalty to this government into question."

Woehlke's reflections against organized labor have been reprinted in various forms by conscription-of-labor advocates, who circulate pamphlets and leaflets containing them on propaganda in this country.

Seattle, May 4.—The metal trades council has asked the government to suppress the Sunset Magazine and its editor, Lewis Worth Woehlke, who is denounced as a "pro-German" writer and professional trouble-maker.

The metal workers condemn Woehlke for his attacks on Jim Skinner & Eddy corporation and its employes. The concern operates a sawmill and fleet which has smashed all records for building ships. Eighty generations will be saddled, not with the burden of paying for the war but with the burdens of disease, shattered men, destroyed lands, forests, mines and factories."

WHY MINERS ARE IN LINE.

Indianapolis, May 4.—The United Mine Workers of America are traditionally opposed to militarism, according to the Mine Workers' Journal.

"The only way to prevent war is by first destroying militarism.

"Germany, the champion of militarism, has conquered the world. Those who hate militarism and war are given the choice of submitting to the German yoke, or fighting it. By building up a military machine sufficiently powerful to defend itself the German government backs up its challenge.

"Russia tried to find a way out by choosing German baronets with the philosophy of human brotherhood as a weapon. But Russia discovered that there is in honor but one way out, and that is to fight it out.

"That is why the people of America are whole-heartedly in favor of this war, and believe that for the good of the world it must be a fight to the finish."

BOWS TO UNCLE SAM.

St. Paul, Minn., May 4.—President Frank of the Northern Pacific and Derrick company is one of those gentlemen who "won't be dictated to" by labor unions. He conducted an anti-union plant, with long hours the general rule. Recently he secured several government contracts and paid as much attention to the federal eight-hour law as he usually did to trade union.

But Mr. Crosby has new views on the subject. Uncle Sam and Uncle Sam called his attention to the eight-hour law. The plant now puts over-time in on much of its work for state-compensation only. Secretary-Treasurer Donnelly of the state federation of labor says that the federal action marks another step toward the abolishment of the injurious companies from the field in those occupation held in Ohio. The companies have appealed Judge Evans' decision.

PRIVATE INSURANCE LOSES.

Columbus, Ohio, May 4.—Common Pleas Judge Evans has dissolved an injunction against the state industrial commission which would stay this board from cutting private insurance companies out of the field.

The commission insists that the state workmen's compensation law interpts to be compulsory, and that it is acting accordingly. Last December the commission began proceedings against the commission. The latter has been assisted by the Ohio state federation of labor in its fight for state-compensation only. Secretary-Treasurer Donnelly of the state federation of labor says that Evans' action marks another step toward the abolishment of the injurious companies from the field in those occupation held in Ohio. The companies have appealed Judge Evans' decision.

QUEENSLAND LABOR WINS.

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, May 4.—The Labor party of this Australian state has been returned to power in the recent election by a record the attention of the entire commonwealth. At the beginning of the election every state has gone Labor except Queensland. An element in this situation is the capitalization of the Labor party's opponents. In the recent election Queensland workers broke all records for never being so well organized and prepared. After serving three full years, been returned with working day the numbers that it previously held.

BAKERY DRIVERS GAIN.

San Francisco, May 4.—Wages have been increased $3.75 a week for Bakery Wagon Drivers' union. The new rate is $28.75 a week. The eight-hour day is retained with 46 eight hours with an additional holiday with pay, making seven days a week. Overtime rates have been increased from 65 cents to $1 an hour.

METAL WORKERS UNITE.

Memphis, Tenn., May 4.—Metal

I. W. W.'S FINANCED BY POWER COMPANIES?

Phoenix, Ariz., May 4.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the Arizona state council of defense, attended by Arizona mine managers, a trade unionist dared the copper companies to favor a government investigation of the charge that they had paid the expenses of I. W. W.'s.

The challenge was not accepted.

The mine managers denied that they were responsible for industrial unrest and reduced copper production in Arizona.

Charges and counter charges were made, when H. B. McCluskey, organizer of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, hurled this dot at Charles E. Mills, general manager of the Inspiration Consolidated Copper company:

"I challenge you, as a member of the executive committee of the state council of defense, to make a motion before the industrial board, appointed by the Taft-Walsh commission, to investigate the labor situation in Arizona and the charge that your company has paid the fare of I. W. W.'s into Arizona."

"Will you make that motion?" asked the chairman.

The mine manager's reply was an emphatic "No."

INTERN THIS GERMAN.

San Francisco, May 4.—The labor council asks that the government investigate Walter V. Woehlke, editor of the Sunset Magazine.

Woehlke is credited with originating many of the yarns that have been told in the press regarding sufficient, is indifferent to the fate of our military forces, and that these forces are "overwhelmed with debt deliberately withheld their energies" in the war. Coal is so vital at this time.

In resolutions, the labor council says:

"Our traducer, Walter V. Woehlke, a German by birth, educated in Germany and there receiving and having connection with affairs that brought him close to the brain of German cupidity, was appointed by the executive committee of the state council of his sympathy with the spirit of the age in its expressions of his fatherland, and declared in his articles that his presence in the United States and his writings during its military power," and other statements that would bring his loyalty to this government into question."

Woehlke's reflections against organized labor have been reprinted in various forms by conscription-of-labor advocates, who circulate pamphlets and leaflets containing them on propaganda in this country.

Seattle, May 4.—The metal trades council has asked the government to suppress the Sunset Magazine and its editor, Lewis Worth Woehlke, who is denounced as a "pro-German" writer and professional trouble-maker.

The metal workers condemn Woehlke for his attacks on Jim Skinner & Eddy corporation and its employes. The concern operates a sawmill and fleet which has smashed all records for building ships. Eighty generations will be saddled, not with the burden of paying for the war but with the burdens of disease, shattered men, destroyed lands, forests, mines and factories."

WHY MINERS ARE IN LINE.

Indianapolis, May 4.—The United Mine Workers of America are traditionally opposed to militarism, according to the Mine Workers' Journal.

"The only way to prevent war is by first destroying militarism.

"Germany, the champion of militarism, has conquered the world. Those who hate militarism and war are given the choice of submitting to the German yoke, or fighting it. By building up a military machine sufficiently powerful to defend itself the German government backs up its challenge.

"Russia tried to find a way out by choosing German baronets with the philosophy of human brotherhood as a weapon. But Russia discovered that there is in honor but one way out, and that is to fight it out.

"That is why the people of America are whole-heartedly in favor of this war, and believe that for the good of the world it must be a fight to the finish."

BOWS TO UNCLE SAM.

St. Paul, Minn., May 4.—President Frank of the Northern Pacific and Derrick company is one of those gentlemen who "won't be dictated to" by labor unions. He conducted an anti-union plant, with long hours the general rule. Recently he secured several government contracts and paid as much attention to the federal eight-hour law as he usually did to trade union.

But Mr. Crosby has new views on the subject. Uncle Sam and Uncle Sam called his attention to the eight-hour law. The plant now puts over-time in on much of its work for state-compensation only. Secretary-Treasurer Donnelly of the state federation of labor says that Evans' action marks another step toward the abolishment of the injurious companies from the field in those occupation held in Ohio. The companies have appealed Judge Evans' decision.

QUEENSLAND LABOR WINS.

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, May 4.—The Labor party of this Australian state has been returned to power in the recent election by a record the attention of the entire commonwealth. At the beginning of the election every state has gone Labor except Queensland. An element in this situation is the capitalization of the Labor party's opponents. In the recent election Queensland workers broke all records for never being so well organized and prepared. After serving three full years, been returned with working day the numbers that it previously held.

BAKERY DRIVERS GAIN.

San Francisco, May 4.—Wages have been increased $3.75 a week for Bakery Wagon Drivers' union. The new rate is $28.75 a week. The eight-hour day is retained with 46 eight hours with an additional holiday with pay, making seven days a week. Overtime rates have been increased from 65 cents to $1 an hour.

METAL WORKERS UNITE.

Memphis, Tenn., May 4.—Metal